

Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board (Tourism Malaysia) Offices

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50480 KUALA LUMPUR.
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Regional Offices

Northern Region

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10200 Penang
Tel : 04-261 9067/262 0066
Fax : 04-262 3688

Southern Region

Ground Floor
Tun Abdul Razak Complex,
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80000 Johor Bahru
Tel : 07-222 3590
Fax : 07-223 5502

East Coast Region

2243, Ground Floor,
Wisma MCIS,
Jalan Sultan Zainal Abidin,
20000 Kuala Terengganu
Tel : 09-622 1433, 622 1893
Fax : 09-622 1791

Sabah Office

Ground Floor,
EON CMG Life Building,
No. 1, Jalan Sagunting,
88000 Kota Kinabalu
Tel : 088-248 698, 242 064, 211 732
Fax : 088-241 764

Sarawak Office

2nd Floor, Bangunan Rugayah
Jalan Song Thian Cheok
93100 Kuching
Tel : 082-246 575, 246 775
Fax : 082-246 442

Tourist Information Centres

Jalan Parliman,
50480 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-293 6661, 293 6664
Kuala Lumpur Railway Station,
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin,
50050 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-274 6063

Level 2, Menara Dato' Onn,
Putra World Trade Centre,
45, Jalan Tun Ismail,
50480 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-441 1295

Malaysia Tourist Information Complex
(MATIC),
109 Jalan Ampang
50450 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-264 3929
Fax : 03-262 1149
Terminal 1,
Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport,
47200 Subang.
Tel: 03-745 5707

Penang International Airport,
11900 Penang,
Tel : 04-643 0501

Langkawi Tourist Information Centre,
Jalan Persiaran Putra,
07000 Kuah, Langkawi
Tel : 04-966 7789
Fax : 04-966 7889

Langkawi International Airport,
07100 Padang Mat Sirat,
Langkawi

Jetty Point Complex,
07000 Kuah, Langkawi
Tel : 04-966 9416

Bukit Kayu Hitam Tourist Information
Centre,
06500 Changlun, Kedah
Tel : 04-922 2078

Padang Besar Tourist Information
Centre,
Immigration Complex,
02100 Padang Besar, Perlis
Tel : 04-949 1579

Lumut Tourist Information Centre,
32200 Lumut, Perak
Tel : 05-683 4057

Ground Floor,
Tun Abdul Razak Complex,
80000 Johor Bahru, Johor
Tel : 07-224 0288, 222 3591

Tanjung Puteri Tour Bus Complex,
Johor Causeway, 80000 Johor Bahru,
Johor
Tel : 07-222 3592

Johor Causeway,
80000 Johor Bahru,
Johor
Tel : 07-224 9485

Labuan Tourist Information Centre,
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87007 Labuan.
Tel : 087-423 455 / 446
Fax : 087-423 446

State Tourism Office

Department of Tourism Johor
The Fort
JKR 475, Bukit Timbalan,
80503 Johor Bahru
Tel : 07-223 4935
Fax : 07-223 7554

MALAYSIA

JOHOR

— GUIDE —



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TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS CARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY

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HISTORY

The history of modern Johor began with Dato' Temenggong Daing Ibrahim, the son of Temenggong Abdul Rahman who was a descendant of Sultan Abdul Jalil IV of Johor. In 1855, under the terms of a treaty between the British in Singapore and Sultan Ali of Johor, the control of Johor was formally ceded to Dato' Temenggong Daing Ibrahim. Sultan Ali retained control over Kesang until shortly before his death in 1877 when the territory was ceded to Dato' Temenggong Abu Bakar.

Dato' Temenggong Daing Ibrahim maintained the seat of government at Teluk Belanga in Singapore. He however began to develop Tanjung Puteri on the Johor mainland. His reign also saw the opening up of land to Chinese settlers from Singapore for the cultivation of pepper, a move that boosted the economy of the state.

The Temenggong was succeeded by his son, Dato' Temenggong Abu Bakar who later took the title Seri Maharaja Johor. Temenggong Abu Bakar continued his father's efforts in cultivating friendly relations with the British. In 1866, he was formally crowned Sultan of Johor. Sultan Abu Bakar was chiefly responsible for the development of modern Johor, a feat that earned him the title of 'Father of Modern Johor'. He gave Johor its constitution and developed an efficient system of administration. The moving of the seat of government from Teluk Belanga to Tanjung Puteri (renamed Johor Bahru) in 1841 led to the rapid development of the town as government offices, police stations, mosques and court houses were built. The Istana Besar constructed during his reign became the official residence of the Sultan. The economy prospered as more investors were lured to Johor.

His successor, Sultan Ibrahim, continued to maintain close relations with the British and in 1910, requested for the services of a British advisor to counsel him on matters of state. Under the able administration of Sultan Ibrahim and his successors, Johor continued to thrive and prosper.

The present ruler, His Majesty Sultan Iskandar ascended the throne in 1981 and further enhanced the glory of the state when he became Malaysia's Eighth Yang Di Pertuan Agong from 1984 to 1989. Johor, today, boasts of a thriving economy, a growing industry, modern facilities and amenities and has the potential to develop still further.



ECONOMY

Johor is one of the most developed states in the country and its economy is based on a mix of agriculture, manufacturing, commerce and tourism. It is a prime producer of rubber, oil palm and pineapple. Pepper is also cultivated on a large scale. It also has a timber and wood-based industry. Bauxite is another product derived from Pengerang. Its new port at Pasir Gudang on the Straits of Johor is fast developing into an important international port.

POPULATION

Its population of approximately 2.1 million comprises an ethnic mix of Malays, Chinese, Indians and others. This has contributed to the colourful and multi-faceted culture that is evident today.

PLACES OF INTEREST — JOHOR

There is an interesting variety of things to do and fascinating places to see in Johor. Johor Bahru has a number of interesting historical buildings and handicraft centres. Outside the state capital in the smaller towns and villages along the coast, are picturesque scenes of rural kampungs and fishing villages. Those who prefer to bask in the tropical sun can choose between the well-known beach resort of Desaru and the beautiful unspoilt islands such as Pulau Rawa, Pulau Sibul, Pulau Tengah and Pulau Besar which lie a few kilometres off the East Coast.

Waterfalls at Lombong, Kota Tinggi

These falls are located 56 kilometres north of Johor Bahru, towards the East Coast. The waterfall is 34 metres high and has been a popular spot with both local and foreign tourists for many years. Those who feel the need for a change from the tropical heat may like to try swimming in the cool waters at the base of the falls. A few chalets have been built near the falls for visitors wishing to spend the night and to be rejuvenated by the fresh mountain air. A restaurant serves both Chinese and Western food. There are also foodstalls. A camping site has also been opened for the young and adventurous.

Ample parking space is available for buses, cars and motorcycles.



Muar

Muar is a picturesque town popular for the delicious and inexpensive foods served by foodstalls and restaurants. Also known as Bandar Maharani, the town bears a striking resemblance to Malacca geographically, culturally and in terms of their inter-connecting historical and commercial roles. Take a stroll along the tree-lined riverside at Tanjong. There is also a hot spring at Sungai Balang on the way to Batu Pahat.

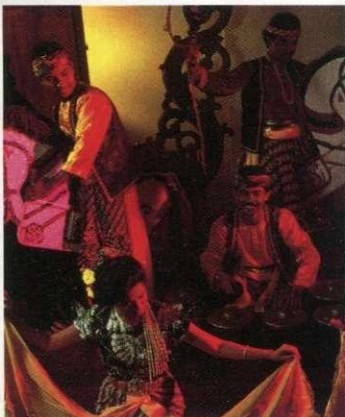


Batu Pahat

Situated on the main trunk road running north from Johor Bahru, Batu Pahat is a regional business and conference centre. It is also a favourite resting place for road travellers. A brief stop here should give you a chance to taste a wide range of fruits, groundnuts and other local delicacies as well as to buy souvenirs and curios.

CULTURE/FESTIVITIES

The rich mix of culture is reflected in the various places of worship — the magnificent mosques, temples and churches existing side by side. It is also evident in the various foods and local delicacies, the colourful and enchanting costumes, festivals, ceremonies and rituals. Most festivals are based on the various religions practiced here although some are also culturally derived. Whatever their origin, these festivals afford the visitor an interesting and colourful insight into the multi-faceted culture that can be traced back to the history of the state.



ENTRY FORMALITIES

Visitors entering Malaysia via Johor must be in possession of a valid passport or other internationally recognised document endorsed for travel in Malaysia. All Certificate of Identity (C.I.) holders must obtain a visa before entering Malaysia.

Visa:

Commonwealth citizens (except Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka nationals), British Protected persons or citizens of the Republic of Ireland and citizens of Switzerland, Netherlands, San Marino and Liechtenstein do not need a visa to enter Malaysia. Citizens of Albania, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Czech & Slovak, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Morocco, Norway, North Yemen, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and United States of America do not require a visa for social or business visits not exceeding three months.

One-month Visa Free Visit

Citizens of ASEAN countries do not require visa for a Social and Business visit not exceeding one month.

Fourteen-day Visa Free Visit

Transit and non-transit tourists are eligible for the fourteen-day visa free visit to Malaysia except those from People's Republic of China, India, Israel, Kampuchea, Laos, Mongolia, North Korea, Zimbabwe, Republic of Transkei, South Africa, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Seven-day Visa Free Visit

Citizens of Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia and Yugoslavia are allowed to enter Malaysia for a period of up to seven days for social or business visits only. (The above regulations are subject to changes.)

Health

Vaccination is required in respect of yellow fever under certain conditions.

Customs

Items such as cameras, watches, pens, portable radio cassette players, perfume, cosmetics and lighters are duty-free in Malaysia. Visitors bringing in dutiable goods may have to pay a deposit for temporary importation, refundable on departure. This is normally up to 50% of the value. Please carry receipts of purchase and please obtain an official receipt for any tax or deposit paid.

Pontian

Approximately one hour's drive from Johor Bahru is Pontian, where some of the fishermen, numbering about 1,500, live in houses raised on stilts above the water. Kukup is known for its fresh seafood and most restaurants serve these "delights of the sea". The road to Pontian is flanked by pineapple plantations.

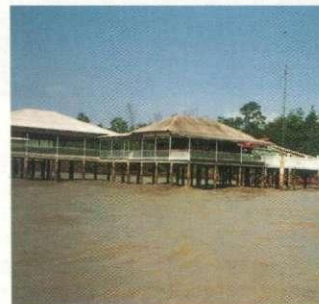
Kukup

Kukup is a fishing village with houses on stilts at the water's edge. There are numerous restaurants on stilts serving delicious seafood. Handicraft and delicacies such as keropok, belacan and cincaluk are available at Kukup. Visitors can also hire fishing boats.

Tanjung Piai

Tanjung Piai is famous for its mangrove swamplands - home to many exotic aquatic life forms which include multi-coloured mangrove crabs, beady-eyed mudskippers and crab-eating macaques.

Located at the southern most tip of mainland Asia, Tanjung Piai is about 75km from Johor Bahru. Visitors will be able to see how 'Gula Melaka' is processed the traditional way, and the collection of honey at the honey bee farm. They can also experience the lifestyle of a typical Malay kampung community.



Air Papan

This stretch of beach is popular picnic area. The annual 'Pesta Air Papan' celebrated on 1st May draws thousands of people. There are chalets for rental.

Johor Lama

Today, Johor Lama (old Johor) is a quiet village 19 kilometres from Kota Tinggi on the banks of the Johor River. However, after the fall of Mallaca it became the royal capital of the Sultans of Johor until the final destruction of the town fort by the Portuguese in 1587.

Desaru

This stretch of beach, formerly surrounded by virgin jungle, was developed as a tourist resort by the Johor Tenggara Development Authority (KEJORA). The resort is linked to Kota Tinggi by a modern highway and has two first class hotels as well as beach chalets for rental. An 18-hole international standard golf course has also been built and there are facilities for day visitors. On weekends, hawker stalls on the normally quiet beach cater for an influx of day trippers. There are also facilities for sports such as tennis, canoeing, swimming, boating, fishing, snorkelling and jungle trekking.



Mersing

Mersing is a pleasant town known for its large bustling fishing fleet. It is also the setting-off point for a large number of islands in the South China Sea, including the well-known Pulau Tioman in the state of Pahang. The Mersing Boat Hire Association provides boats for inter-island travel or fishing.



Mount Ophir

The mountain is said to be the home of the legendary Princess 'Puteri Gunung Ledang' once wooed by the Sultan of Malacca. The mountain is a favourite among local mountaineers in search of excitement and adventure. The Sagil waterfall at its base is a favourite spot for picnicking.

Crystal clear river water and breathtaking waterfalls in tranquil, unspoiled environment beckon visitors to this area for a cooling bath or simply a quiet rest. Various amenities, including rest sheds, dressing rooms, camping sites, foodstalls and car parks are provided here. There are also tracks leading to the summit of Gunung Ledang.



Endau — Rompin Forest

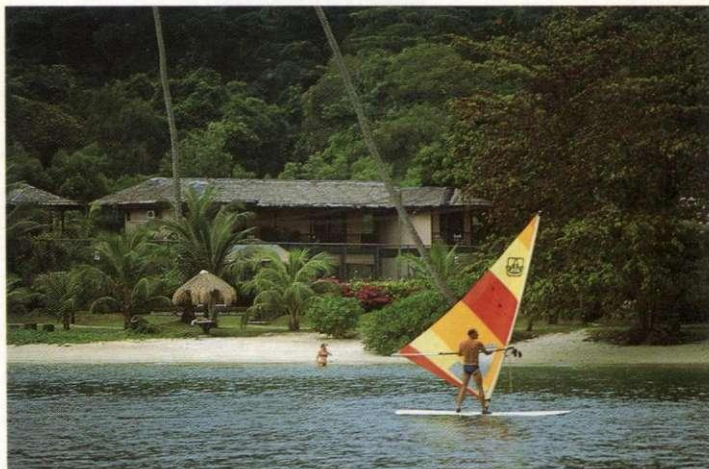
Located on the Johor-Pahang border, this 2 1/2 century-old extensive lowland forest is home to several rare and endangered species including the two horned rhinoceros. This park is popular with conservationist and nature lovers who enjoy the treeming wildlife and virgin enviroment.

Gunung Pulai Recreational Forest

This 8-hectare forest reserve is a catchment area of unique flora and fauna sanctuary and a fascinating recreational haven. Along the course of a river are several waterfalls with pools at its bottom. Apart from being an ideal picnic spot, the forest is a favourite venue for seminars and workchamps and is a focal point for adventurers trekking to the summit of Gunung Pulai.

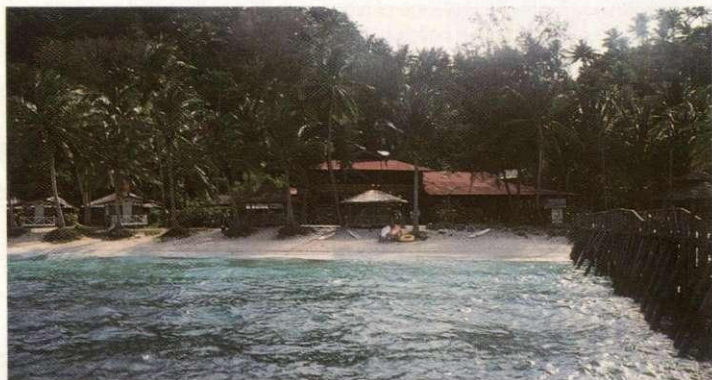
Pulau Sibn Tengah

Pulau Sibn Tengah offers visitors a variety of accommodation at its rustic resorts plus a host of watersports activities. Visitors may also play tennis and maybe plunge into the cool emerald depths to cool off later. Other facilities include a restaurant, bar and a discotheque where one can dance the night away.



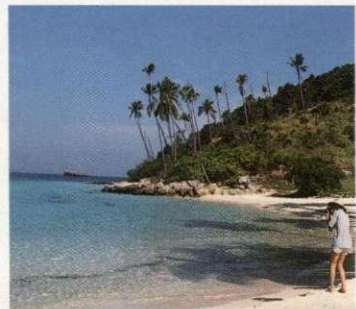
Pulau Rawa

Pulau Rawa, another beautiful island, is popular among Singaporeans and international tourists. Accommodation is available in comfortable chalets set amidst idyllic rural surroundings. It would be advisable to contact the Rawa Safaries in Mersing (Tel: 07-7991204/5) to obtain advance bookings. Among some of the more popular seasports here are snorkelling, scuba diving and fishing.



Pulau Besar

This beautiful island is also acclaimed for its rich and colourful marine life within the colourful coral reefs. Visitors may stay at one of the many charming rural style chalets and enjoy the delights of organised fishing, island hopping excursions, snorkelling and scuba diving.

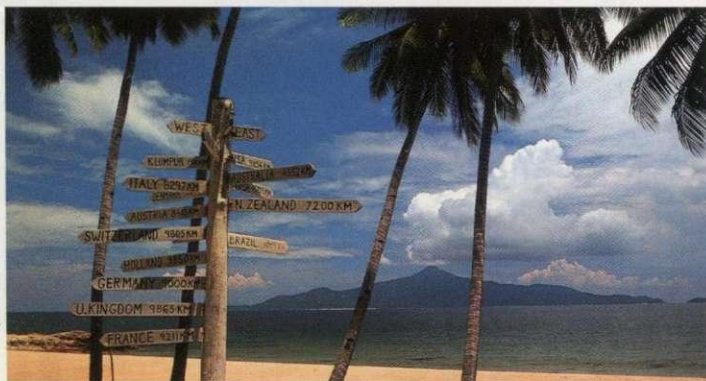


OFFSHORE ISLANDS

A few nautical miles off the coast of Mersing lie some of the most beautiful islands in the South China Sea. Being remote, these islands are relatively untouched. The combination of unspoilt charm and tranquillity makes these islands a much sought after destination among a growing number of visitors who flock to the islands in search of its soothing calm amidst rustic retreats and crystal clear emerald waters.

Pulau Sibü

This island is famed for its clean white beaches, clear blue waters and offshore coral reefs. The lush tropical vegetation which abounds further inland lends an air of restful ambience. There are facilities for snorkelling, scuba diving, wind surfing, sailing and angling.



Pulau Tengah

Pulau Tengah, an uninhabited island, lies nine nautical miles off the coast of Mersing on the South China Sea. It is an hour away by boat from Mersing town.

During the 70's, the island became famous as a Vietnamese refugee transit camp which was subsequently closed in the early 80's. In 1985, Pulau Tengah was one of the few islands gazetted by the Malaysian government as a Marine Park due to its abundant marine life and rare species of fish and coral. Giant leatherback turtles come ashore to lay eggs yearly especially during the month of July.

Pulau Tinggi

Pulau Tinggi, rising 2,000 ft above sea level, is endowed with fresh waters, a sheltered harbour and coral reefs which abound with prolific marine life. Swimming, snorkelling and scuba diving are some of the more popular pursuits here.

Pulau Pemanggil

Another enchanting island paradise is Pulau Pemanggil, about five hours away by boat from Mersing. This remote island is also famed for the beauty and abundance of marine life within its clear emerald waters. Chalets and longhouses are available for visitors wishing to spend the night.

Pulau Aur

Pulau Aur, with its secluded lagoons and offshore pools, is famed for its natural scenic beauty. It is perfect for bathing and a host of water-based activities. A longhouse on the island provides basic accommodation for small groups of visitors.

Island	Resort	Enquiries/reservations	Ferry Terminal
Pulau Besar	Sun Dancer Island Resort & White Sand Beach Resort	Sun & Sand Holiday, Jalan Ismail, 86800 Mersing, Johor Tel: 07-799 4995 Fax: 07-799 5279 Resort : 011-717 834	Mersing
	Radin Island Resort	1880-1, Jalan Jemaluang, Taman Mersing, 86800 Mersing Tel : 07-799 4954 Fax: 07-799 1413 Resort : 011-325 935	Mersing
	Pulau Besar Chalet	Gerai No. 5B, Jalan Abu Bakar, 86800 Mersing, Johor Tel : 010-736 586	Mersing
Pulau Rawa	Rawa Safaries Sdn Bhd	Pusat Pelancongan Mersing, 86800 Mersing, Johor Tel : 07-799 1204	Mersing
Pulau Pemanggil	Pemanggil Holiday Heaven	No. 14, Plaza R&R, Jalan Abu Bakar, 86800 Mersing, Johor Tel : 07-799 4360	Mersing
Pulau Sibü	Sibü Island Cabanas	6A, Jalan Sutan, Taman Sentosa, 80150 Johor Bahru, Johor Tel : 07-331 7216/1920 Fax : 07-331 1920	Tanjung Leman
	Twin Beach Resort	Mina Holiday Tours & Travel Sdn Bhd, 98, Jalan Harimau Tarum, Taman Abad, 80250 Johor Bahru, Johor Tel: 07-332 2122, 011-350 427, 011-331 896 Fax : 07-332 4122	Tanjung Leman
	Rimba Resort & Sea Gypsy Village	MNG Travel & Tours Sdn Bhd, 403, Bangunan Kerjasama, Jalan Dhoby, 80000 Johor Bahru, Johor Tel: 07-223 1493 / 91 Fax : 07-223 1753	Mersing
Pulau Sibü Tengah	Sibü Island Resort	Suite 2, 14th Floor, Tun Abd. Razak Complex, Jalan Wong Ah Fook, 80000 Johor Bahru, Johor Tel: 07-223 1188	Tanjung Leman
Pulau Tinggi	Nadia's Inn	1C, Jalan Abu Bakar, 86800 Mersing, Johor. Tel: 07-799 5582 Fax : 07-799 5797	Mersing
Pulau Dayang	Pasir Panjang Chalet	55-D, Kg. Sri Lalang, Jalan Endau, 86800 Mersing, Johor Tel : 07-799 4407	Mersing
Pulau Aur	Samudre Holidays	Bahtera Express, No. 12, Plaza R&R, Jalan Abu Bakar, 86000 Mersing, Johor Tel : 07-799 4407	Tanjung Leman
	Aur Holiday Resort	No. 2, Jalan Md. Aris, Kg. Bahagia, 86800 Mersing, Johor. Tel: 07-799 4072	Mersing

PLACES OF INTEREST —
JOHOR BAHRU



STATE SECRETARIAT BUILDING
(Bangunan Sultan Ibrahim)

The building was built in 1940 and is located on a hill called Bukit Timbalan. Despite the appearance of highrise buildings in recent years, the square tower of the massive building still dominates the Johor Bahru skyline. It houses the state secretariat as well as the other departments of the state government. Visitors may find the grand hall of particular interest.



ROYAL ABU BAKAR MUSEUM, GRAND PALACE, JOHOR

The imposing palace along Jalan Tun Dr Ismail was built by the late Sultan Abu Bakar, Father of Modern Johor. It houses an impressive collection of many rare and beautiful treasures from all over the world.

Admission fees are as follow:

Non-Malaysians

- 1. Adults — US\$7.00
- 2. Children (below the age of 12) — US\$3.00

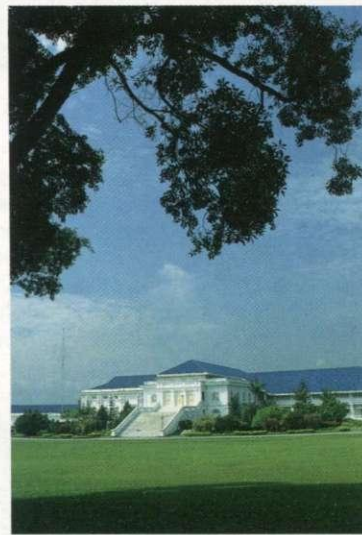
Locals

- 1. Adults — RM5.00
- 2. Children (below the age of 12) — RM1.00
- 3. Schoolchildren in uniform — RM1.00

Opening hours: Daily from 10 am to 6 pm except on Friday.

Tickets are available at the entrance from 10 am to 5 pm.

For further information, please call:
The Curator
Royal Abu Bakar Museum
Tel: 07-223 0555, 223 0222





Buildings

1 State Secretariat Building	D3
2 Customs Complex	D4
3 Karyaneka (Mawar House)	D1
4 Royal Abu Bakar Museum	D2
5 Masjid Sultan Abu Bakar	D2
6 Johor Art Gallery	C1

Hotels

A Holiday Plaza	A3
B Rasa Sayang Hotel	D3
C Tropical Inn	C3

D Puteri Pan Pacific	D3
E Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza	A2

Bus/Taxi Terminal

a J.B. Bus Terminal	C2
b Taxi Terminal	D3
c Railway Station	D4

Shopping Complexes

i Lien Hoe Complex	A4
ii Plaza Kotaraya	D3
iii Tun Abdul Razak Complex (KOMTAR)	C3
iv Plaza Pelangi	B3

Within the palace grounds is the **Mawar Gift Shop** — a souvenir shop where visitors may purchase a variety of items as mementoes.



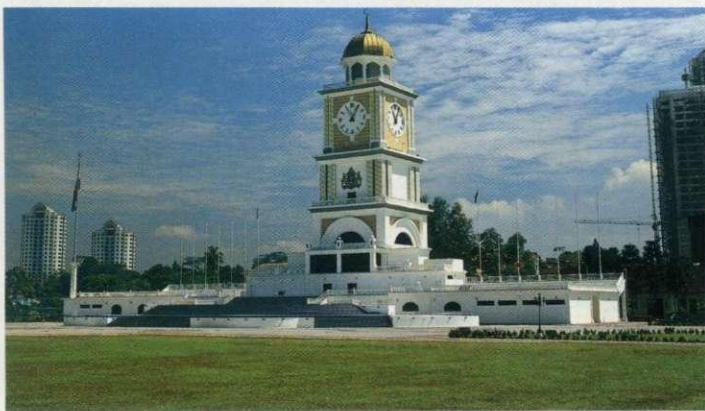
MASJID SULTAN ABU BAKAR

This mosque, said to be one of the most beautiful in Malaysia, was completed in 1900, a few years after the death of the Sultan it is named after. The mosque, which took eight years to build, can accommodate 2,000 worshippers. It is located on spacious grounds not far from the Istana Besar overlooking the Tebrau Straits.



DATARAN BANDARAYA

Dataran Bandaraya, or City Square, was officially opened on 31 December 1993 by the Sultan of Johor. A much sought after venue for public events like parades and stage shows, this popular tourist attraction comprises a large stage, a minaret, a fountain and a clock tower reputed to be the biggest in the region. It also boasts of the tallest flag staff in the state. A mega video screen has been installed for visitors to view live transmissions.



JOHOR ART GALLERY

The Johor Art Gallery was built in 1910 and houses all discovered and historical items such as documents and cultural artifacts traditionally used by Malays, particularly from the State of Johor. Among the exhibits are clothings, weapons, currency, manuscripts and examples of calligraphy, ceramic objects and fine art.



THE CAUSEWAY

Entering Johor Bahru from Singapore involves travelling across the Causeway, which links the two cities. Completed in 1924 after four years'



PLAZA PELANGI

Plaza Pelangi, Johor Bahru's most exciting shopping mall, has a multitude of stores which offer a wide array of value-for-money quality merchandise from handicraft items and souvenirs to a large selection of fashion apparel, accessories and trendy footwear. If hunger gnaws, head for the local eateries, patisserie or fast food outlets. The shopping mall is a mere 10-minute's drive away from the Causeway and is well served by taxis and regular bus services.



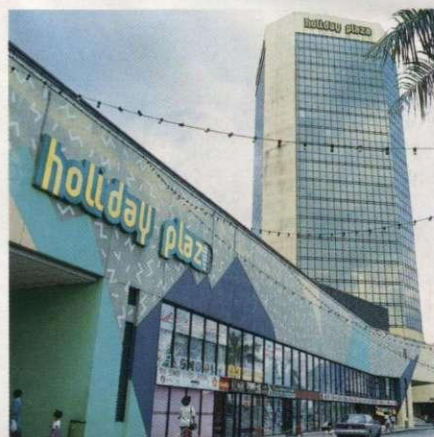
TUN ABD. RAZAK COMPLEX

The Tun Abdul Razak Complex is another modern shopping centre and is located along Jalan Wong Ah Fook in downtown Johor Bahru. It is the focus of activity for both shopping and business and houses a food court, shops, a supermarket and a snooker lounge.



PLAZA KOTA RAYA

This extensive office and hotel complex covering an eleven-acre site is in the heart of Johor Bahru. This mammoth project is undertaken by the Johor State Economic Development Corporation and is considered to be a significant enhancement toward Johor's economic growth and as an important business centre in the southern region of the country.



THE HOLIDAY PLAZA

This modern shopping complex in Jalan Dato' Sulaiman, Century Garden, has a unique design. Almost every tenant on its three floors has prime space opening out onto the pedestrian mall or the road. The complex also includes a large cinema, a medical centre, a night club, banks, a children's playground, a hawker's centre and a number of fast food outlets catering to

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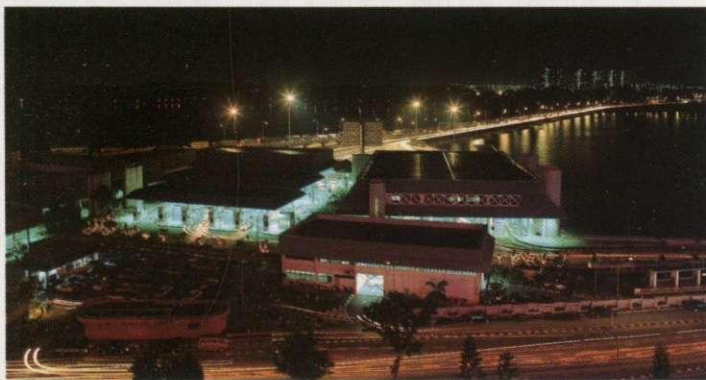
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THE CAUSEWAY

Entering Johor Bahru from Singapore involves travelling across the Causeway which links the two cities. Completed in 1924 after four years' work, the Causeway is 1,056 metres long and extends to a depth of 23 metres below the water level. In January 1942, the British Army demolished part of it as invading Japanese forces prepare to attack Singapore from the north. The Japanese soon effected repairs and the Causeway resumed its role as an important road, railway and general communications link. The crossing includes a pedestrian walkway for the energetic. Singapore gets a good deal of water supply from large water pipes which have been laid across the Causeway from Johor.



THE ZOO

Situated on sprawling grounds at Jalan Gertak Merah is the Johor Zoo. It houses some of the most fascinating collection of animals. Include it in your itinerary for a few hours of fun.

Opening hours: Daily 8.00 am to 6.00 pm

SHOPPING

Shopping in Johor can be fun and also less of a strain on the budget. The various handicraft centres provide an interesting and tempting variety of items to choose from as souvenirs or gifts. Shops in the modern shopping complexes are equally competitive and offer irresistible bargains. If you are interested in pottery items, then the Aw Pottery factory and showroom in Air Itam is the place for you.

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KOMPLEKS LIEN HOE

Approximately 5 km north of Johor Bahru, just off Jalan Tebrau, this well-known budget shopping centre houses department stores, retail outlets, furniture showrooms and restaurants aplenty. A regular bazaar on the ground floor concourse offers a wide range of apparel, shoes, handbags, handicrafts and household items at bargain prices. The food court on the first floor offers fifty food stalls with a wide variety of local cuisine.



KOMPLEKS PUSAT BANDAR PASIR GUDANG (KPBPG)

Built in 1986, this complex is located in the hub of the Pasir Gudang town centre. Retail outlets within the complex offer a wide variety of clothings, leather products, stationery, opticals, electrical appliances and computers. Restaurants and food stalls on the third level serve a wide variety of local and Western cuisine. Located about 32 km east of Johor Bahru, the complex is about 25 minutes' drive from Johor Bahru.



HANDICRAFT CENTRES

MAWAR HOUSE

Located within the Mawar Complex, this building was painstakingly restored at great cost to preserve a part of the rich traditional heritage of Johor. Today it houses the exhibition and sales centre of KARYANEKA, offering a variety of traditional and contemporary handicrafts ranging from batik, hand woven textiles, silverware, basketry, woodcarvings and pottery.

The Johor Area Rehabilitation Organisation (JARO) maintains a shop in Jalan Sg. Cat where visitors can purchase a wide variety of goods such as baskets, soft dolls and other handicrafts made by handicapped persons.



In addition, the Johor Crafttown Handicraft Centre at m.s. 36, 3 3/4 m.s. Jalan Skudai, off Jalan Abu Bakar, offers hand-drawn batik cloths, batik paintings, straw mats and other goods for sale. A one-stop handicraft centre destined to be Johor's leading tourist attraction, the village is the place for a fascinating demonstration of traditional songket weaving, batik silk painting and the art of fine pottery. Tourists can pick up interesting performances while dining at the Johorcraft Restaurant.

Johorcraft Sdn Bhd, located at Lot 2135, 23 1/2 m.s. Jalan Johor Bahru-Kota Tinggi, offers fine rural crafts and high quality ceramic items of various colours, shapes and sizes to meet the discerning tastes of both local and overseas markets.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

There are a variety of sports played in Johor Bahru. The most popular beach for water sports is the Stulang Laut beach near Jalan Sultan Ibrahim. The city also has a special stadium, the Stadium Tan Sri Dato' Haji Hassan Yunus, which serves as the home of the state soccer team. Other visitors may wish to test their golfing skills at the Royal Johor Country Club in Jalan Larkin which boasts of one of the best courses in the country. Public facilities in the city include tennis courts, jogging tracks, bowling alley and snooker centres.

THE JOHOR RACING CIRCUIT

The 3.86 km circuit in Pasir Gudang was developed by the Johor State Economic Development Corporation and promoted by Sports Communications Sdn Bhd in accordance to the standards set by the Federation Internationale Motorcyclists and Federation Internationale Automobile.

The circuit is built on undulating terrain with twelve challenging corners and offers excellent viewing for spectators. Among the events hosted yearly are the World Superbike, World Endurance, and the Johor Race Series for cars and bikes.



EATING OUT

Eating out in Johor Bahru is always enjoyable because you can obtain a wide variety of Western and Asian dishes at reasonable prices.

All the major hotels in Johor Bahru offer good Western food. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of Western-style fast food outlets. But the visitor is more likely to want to taste local dishes. The ethnic mix in Johor is such that cooking styles have been influenced by a variety of cultural traditions. Apart from Malay, Chinese and Indian foods, there are also local variations which have evolved from traditional Javanese methods

ACCOMMODATION

Johor is well served with hotels to suit a variety of tastes and budgets. Visitors will also be pleasantly surprised to find that high class hotels in Johor Bahru are competitively priced compared to those of Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. Those who wish to stay in Johor Bahru may choose to stay at one of the city's luxury hotels such as the Puteri Pan Pacific Hotel, Holiday Inn, Tropical Inn, Merlin Tower, Johor Bahru Merlin, Rasa Sayang Hotel and Crystal Crown Hotel.

The other major towns to the north such as Batu Pahat, Kluang, Kota Tinggi, Segamat, Muar and Mersing also have a range of good hotels. The beach resort of Desaru offers visitors a choice between the luxurious Desaru View Hotel and the popular Desaru Golf Hotel and more rustic chalets and camping facilities. There is also chalet accommodation on many of the islands off the east coast.



HOTEL IN JOHOR BAHRU

Hyatt Regency
Tel : 07-222 1234
Fax : 07-222 9234

Grand Continental Hotel
Tel : 07-332 3999
Fax : 07-332 1999

Crystal Crown Hotel
Tel : 07-333 4422
Fax : 07-334 5505

Century Plaza Hotel
Tel : 07-333 3300
Fax : 07-333 385

Regent Elite Hotel
Tel : 07-2243811

Causeway Inn Hotel
Tel : 07-2248811
Fax : 07-2248820

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza
Tel : 07-332 3800
Fax : 07-331 8884

Merlin Johor Bahru
Tel : 07-223 7400
Fax : 07-224 8919

Hotel Sofitel
Tel : 07-599 6000
Fax : 07-599 7028

Rasa Sayang Hotel
Tel : 07-224 8600
Fax : 07-224 8612

JB Youth Inn
Tel : 07-223 4223

Southern Inn Hotel
Tel : 07-333 9306
Fax : 07-333 0911

Tropical Inn Hotel
Tel : 07-224 7888
Fax : 07-224 1544

Bugfet Lodge
Tel : 07-2243514

The Putri Pan Pacific
Tel : 07-223 3333
Fax : 07-223 6622

Footloose
Tel : 07-224 2881

HOTEL OUTSIDE JOHOR BAHRU

MERSING

Country Hotel
Tel : 07-799 1799
Fax : 07-799 3787

Embassy Hotel
Tel : 07-799 3545
Fax : 07-799 5279

Government Rest House
Tel : 07-799 2102

Merlin Inn, St. Mile
Tel : 07-799 1313

Timotel (M) Sdn Bhd
Tel : 07-799 5888
Fax : 07-799 5333

Mersing Resort
Tel : 07-799 1004

Sri Mersing Chalet
Tel : 07-799 2060

Omar Backpackers Hotel
Tel : 07-799 3125

Sheikh Guest House
Tel : 07-799 3767

Telok Godek Chalet
Tel : 07-799 2569

BATU PAHAT

Carnival House
Tel : 07-431 5122

KOTA TINGGI

Batu Laya Beach Resort
Tel : 07-822 2044
Fax : 07-822 2044

Desaru Chalet
Tel : 07-822 1213
Fax : 07-822 1937

Desaru View Hotel
Tel : 07-822 1221
Fax : 07-822 1237

Desaru Golden Beach Hotel
Desaru Garden Beach Resort
Tel : 07-822 1101
Fax : 07-822 1937

Kota Tinggi Waterfall Resort
Tel : 07-883 1146
Fax : 07-883 1753

Tanjung Balau Fishing Village
Tel : 07-822 1601
Fax : 07-822 1600

MUAR

Kingdom Hotel
Tel : 06-952 1921

Park View Hotel
Tel : 06-951 6656
Fax : 06-951 6703

KELUANG

Anika Hotel
Tel : 07-772 4977
Fax : 07-772 5870

Regal Hotel
Tel : 07-932 4922

SIMPANG RENGKAM

Hotel Simpang
Tel : 07-753 5395

SEGAMAT

Silver Merlin/Merlin Inn
Tel : 07-931 9911
Fax : 07-931 9914

Mercury Hotel
Tel : 07-931 2101
Fax : 07-931 2106

YONG PENG

Hour Far Hotel
Tel : 07-467 1199

KULAI

Metro Hotel
Tel : 07-663 0961

HOW TO GET THERE

By Air

Regular flights from Johor Bahru's Senai airport connect the State capital with Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Terengganu, Kuantan and Kuching.

The airport service charge for international flights is RM20.00 while RM5.00 is charged for domestic flights. Bookings can be arranged through the office of the Malaysia Airlines (MAS) at Plaza Pelangi Suite 1.1 Level 1, Menara Pelangi, Jalan Kuning, Taman Pelangi, 80400 Johor Bahru (Tel: 07-334 1003, 334 4701). Taxis operating at the airport charge RM25.00 per person to the city

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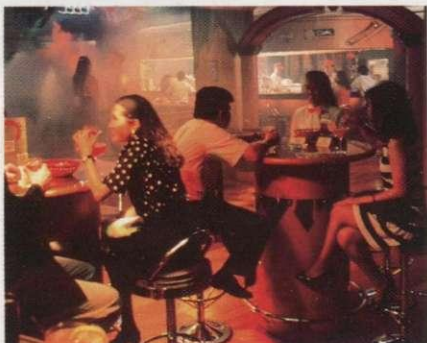
The local habit of eating out (especially in the evenings) also works in favour of the visitor. Roadside stalls are numerous and offer an almost endless variety of dishes to choose from. The two main places where you will find large numbers of food stalls are the Tepian Tebrau Stalls in Jalan Skudai along the seafront and the stalls next to the Central Market.

The state capital is noted for its fresh seafood, especially oysters, prawns, fried cuttlefish, chili crab and steamed crab. The more adventurous might also like to try sea cucumber. The Laksa Johor (rice noodle) and Lontong (rice cubes), both served in spicy coconut milk gravy are two well-known Johor specialties - definitely not to be missed.



ENTERTAINMENT

Johor Bahru is said to come alive with the setting sun, its vibrant nightlife providing lively entertainment to match your mood. The leading hotels regularly provide live music and entertainment. The city also has numerous lounges, discos, pubs and cinemas.



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By Road

Taxis are a popular and cheap means of transport. All urban taxis are fitted with meters. An additional 50% is charged between the hours of 12 am and 6 am. It is also possible to hire an outstation taxi on a shared or individual basis to travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malacca, Kuantan and Kota Bharu.

Johor Bahru is also well served by express buses offering comfortable rides at reasonable fares from all major cities and towns in Peninsular Malaysia.

By Rail

Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTM) offers numerous train services connecting Singapore and other states through the Johor Bahru Railway Station.

By Ferry

Ferrylink provides a new way to travel between Singapore and Malaysia. It operates between Changi Point near the Singapore International Airport and Tanjung Belungkor in Johor. Vehicles can be driven on board.

Daily Ferry Service			
Leaving Singapore		Leaving Tanjung Belungkor	
Tanjung Belungkor (Johor)			
S1	0900 Hours	M1	1030 Hours
S2	1200 Hours	M2	1330 Hours
S3	1615 Hours	M3	1745 Hours

For reservations and further information

Tel (0207)-2517407 Fax (0207)-2517414 } M'sia
Tel (65)-5453600 Singapore Fax (65)-5455040

JOHOR

SOUTH CHINA SEA



BRIEF BACKGROUND

Johor, the southern gateway, is the third largest state in Peninsular Malaysia. Covering an area of 19,984 sq km at the southern part of the peninsular, it is bounded by the states of Pahang to the north, Malacca and Negeri Sembilan to the west, and the Straits of Johor to the south. A causeway carrying a road and a railway line connects the state capital, Johor Bahru, to Singapore; making the state highly accessible from Singapore. Boat services also connect various points along the Johor River to Changi in Singapore.